

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 NIC-01 EUR-25 SAJ-01 SAM-01

MC-02 NEA-14 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 /171 W

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R 211220Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0663

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 9909

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR MASS US ET

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL ON GREAT POWER RELATIONSHIPS ON THE HORN OF
AFRICA

REF: ADDIS 9859 PARA 8

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD OF AUGUST 21 CARRIES AN EDITORIAL WHICH
LIKELY ATTRACT CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION. FULL TEXT FOLLOWS.
BEGIN QUOTE. "WE TALK OF PEACE BUT THERE IS NO PEACE. WHICH IS
WHAT CONTINUES TO DRIVE NATIONS INTO SEEKING MUTUAL SELF-DEFENSE.
MANY AND VARIED ARE THE FACTORS THAT DICTATE WHICH ALLIANCE TO
SEEK AND WHICH TO AVOID. UNDERLYING ALL SUCH CONSIDERATIONS,
HOWEVER, IS THAT THE BEST DETERRENT TO AGGRESSION IS THE THREAT OF
A COUNTERBLOW POISED TO STRIKE WHERE AND WHEN NECESSARY.

IN SO FAR AS ECONOMICALLY BACKWARD COUNTRIES LIKE ETHIOPIA ARE
CONCERNED, THE MOST REALISTIC WAY OF GOING ABOUT THIS IS THROUGH
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MUTUAL DEFENSE. WE JUST CANNOT GO IT ALONE. THE BULK OF OUR

AVAILABLE RESOURCES SHOULD PER FORCE BE CHANNELLED TOWARDS ENHANCING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STANDARD OF THE PEOPLE - NOT TO ARMAMENT, ALTHOUGH DEFENSE REMAINS A CORNERSTONE OF OUR NATIONAL POSTURE.

GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE SO-CALLED BIG POWERS HAVE DELIVERED ON THEIR PLEDGE TO COME TO THE ASSISTANCE OF THEIR SMALLER BRETHREN WHEN SUCH ACTION IS FOUND NECESSARY - PROVIDE, AS IT WERE, A PROTECTIVE UMBRELLA TO THEIR PROTEGES. THE "BALANCE OF POWER" THUS ESTABLISHED HAS SO FAR HAD THE SALUBRIOUS EFFECT OF MINIMIZING - SOMETIMES EVEN ELIMINATING - LOCAL CONFLICTS.

SAD TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THIS NO LONGER RINGS TRUE IN SO FAR AS THE HORN OF AFRICA IS CONCERNED. THERE ARE TWO CONFLICTING IDEOLOGIES AROUND THE CORNER. UNFORTUNATE, BUT THERE IT IS.

AT ONE END ARE ENTITIES WHICH ALL OF A SUDDEN FIND THEMSELVES QUITE NEGLECTED. AT THE OTHER END ARE THOSE WALLOWING IN SELF CONFIDENCE VERGING ON COCKINESS. WHAT LARGELY DETERMINES THE MOOD, OF COURSE, IS THE INFUSION OF MILITARY HARDWARE. OR, SHALL WE SAY, THE DISTINCT DEARTH OF IT.

SOME ARE BEING SATURATED WITH ARMS WHILE OTHERS ARE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD. IN THE LATTER CASE, DESPITE AND INDEED BECAUSE OF LONG-STANDING AND SOMETIMES TOO COZY RELATIONSHIP.

THE SITUATION IS FRAUGHT WITH DANGER AND IS HARDLY MADE LESS SO BY THE FACT THAT NOT ALL OF THE REGIMES NOW BEING ARMED TO THE TEETH ARE WHAT YOU CAN DESCRIBE AS DISCIPLES OF PEACE. NOR DO THE REGION'S BENEFACTORS APPEAR TOO EAGER TO RESTRAIN THE BELLICOSE IMPULSE OF THEIR CLIENT STATES.

THE CHOICE BEFORE NATIONS WHOSE SECURITY IS THUS JEOPARDIZED AS A RESULT OF THE NEWLY-EMERGING MILITARY EQUATION IS, THEREFORE, QUITE CLEAR. NO NATIONS, CERTAINLY NOT ETHIOPIA, SHOULD LET ITSELF BE CAUGHT WITH ITS GUARD DOWN. WHILE IT IS NATURAL FOR THOSE OF US WHO CHERISH FREEDOM TO SEEK ALLIANCES, NO SELF-RESPECTING NATION SHOULD INDULGE THE LUXURY OF ENTERING INTO ACCORDS THAT LEAVE LITTLE OR NO ROOM FOR MANEUVER.

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IF THIS IS SUFFICIENTLY RECOGNIZED THEN IT SHOULD ALSO BE RECOGNIZED THAT NO FOREIGN POLICY SHOULD BE SO FOSSILIZED THAT IT CANNOT CHANGE WHEN THE NEED FOR CHANGE ARISES - AS IT OBVIOUSLY APPEARS TO DO IN ETHIOPIA'S CASE. OUR FOREIGN POLICY MUST BE FLEXIBLE AND THE YARDSTICK FOR SUCH FLEXIBILITY MUST OF NECESSITY BE NATIONAL INTEREST.

ETHIOPIA FIRST*" END QUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE STILL LACK EVIDENCE AT THIS WRITING AS TO THE ORIGINS OF THE EDITORIAL, IT LIKELY ORIGINATED WITH THE AFCC. ADDRESSEES WILL UNDERSTAND THAT FOCUS OF AFCC IS ON ETHIOPIA'S MILITARY PREPAREDNESS, EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE TO IEMF IN OGADEN AND SOMALI INVENTORY CONFRONTING ETHIOPIANS. (ON THIS POINT LATEST THIRD COUNTRY ASSESSMENT AVAILABLE TO US IS THAT OF FRG MILITARY ATTACHE WHO ACCREDITED BOTH IN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA. THIS SOURCE, PER MOGADISCIO'S 1282 NOTAL, GIVES SOMALIA 4 TO 1 ADVANTAGE IN TANKS ANTI-AIRCRAFT AND APC'S.) AFCC, OF COURSE, ONLY DIMLY AWARE, IF AT ALL, OF CONSTRAINTS ON US MAP ARISING FROM WORLDWIDE COMMITMENTS; CONGRESSIONAL FACTORS; LEAD TIMES, ETC.

3. WE WILL HAVE FURTHER COMMENT IN SUBSEQUENT TELEGRAM.
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